

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059762

MANILA POUCH CEBU

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, OCON, RP

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/PHL - BENJAMIN A. FLECK

1. TOUSSAINT CONSULTATION (LOU)

WE ARE DEVOTING MANY MAN-HOURS THIS WEEK TO FACILITATING DON TOUSSAINT'S CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR MANILA ON MARCH 12. BY THE TIME HE LEAVES, HE WILL HAVE TOUCHED BASE WITH MOST OF THE KEY INDIVIDUALS AND AGENCIES HERE INTERESTED IN THE PHILIPPINES.

2. CONDITION OF AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ (UNCLASSIFIED)

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 059762

DURING DON TOUSSAINT'S COURTESY CALL ON MARCH 7 ON THE PHILIPPINE CHARGE, THE LATTER REMARKED THAT AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ' SON AT THE EMBASSY HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY WORD CONCERNING THE AMBASSADOR'S CONDITION SINCE HIS PROSTRATE OPERATION IN MANILA MARCH 3. THEY CONSIDER THIS TO BE A CASE OF NO NEWS BEING GOOD NEWS.

3. VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP PREPARATIONS (LOU)

THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED EA/PHL WITH A CHECK LIST OF TOPICS WHICH THE EMBASSY HAS DRAFTED UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM MANILA WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED FOR DISCUSSION DURING THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MANILA. THE CHARGE STATED THAT THE EMBASSY DESIRES OUR COMMENTS ON THE LIST BEFORE THEY PROPOSE IT TO MANILA.

4. CONGRESSMAN BEDELL VISIT (LOU)

CONGRESSMAN BEDELL HAS DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO VISIT MANILA SINCE HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO RECRUIT A CONGRESSIONAL COLLEAGUE TO ACCOMPANY HIM AND IS FACED WITH SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES. AS POSSIBLE TRAVELING COMPANIONS, WE HAD SUPPLIED HIM WITH A LIST OF SEVEN CONGRESSMEN WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE PHILIPPINES. HE IS CONSIDERING CIRCULATING AMONG HIS FELLOW CONGRESSMEN A LETTER TO MARCOS EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS. TOM BEDELL, HIS SON, IS WRAPPING UP HIS TRIP REPORT AND EA/PHL WILL BE REVIEWING IT CLOSELY WITH HIM.

5. USG RESPONSE TO GOP INTEREST IN HOSTING UN CONFERENCE (CONFIDENTIAL)

PHILIPPINE CHARGE BELISARIO WAS GIVEN ON FEBRUARY 7 THE
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PAGE 03 STATE 059762

DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO HIS EARLIER INFORMAL SOUNDING OF THE US POSITION ON MANILA'S INTEREST IN HOSTING THE 1980 SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. HE WAS TOLD BY JULIUS WALKER, IO/OIC, THAT THE USG COULD PROBABLY SUPPORT THE PHILIPPINE PROPOSAL, PROVIDED THE GOP PAID THE EXTRA COSTS (INCLUDING DELEGATE TRANSPORTATION) OF HOLDING THE MEETING AWAY FROM NEW YORK CITY. (WE ESTIMATE THAT THE SESSION WOULD INVOLVE ROUGHLY 450-500 PARTICIPANTS, LASTING PERHAPS THREE WEEKS.) WITHOUT FOCUSING ON WHAT THE TOTAL BILL COULD AMOUNT TO, BELISARIO WAS PLEASED, SUGGESTING THAT THE GOP COULD PROBABLY DO SOMETHING ON FINANCING.

6. PLEASE NOTE FOR EA ONLY CAPTION. VANCE

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